

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, as follows:

Reference is hereby made to concurrently filed, co-pending, and commonly assigned U.S. patent ~~applications~~ Application Serial Number 09/510,278, filed February 21, 2000 [~~Attorney Docket No. 10971265~~], entitled "MECHANISM FOR DATA FORWARDING"; Application Serial Number 09/510,288, filed February 21, 2000 [~~Attorney Docket No. 10971362~~], entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EFFICIENTLY UPDATING A FULLY ASSOCIATIVE ARRAY"; and Application Serial Number 09/510,282, filed February 21, 2000 [~~Attorney Docket No. 10971366~~], entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FINDING AND VALIDATING THE MOST RECENT ADVANCE LOAD FOR A GIVEN CHECK LOAD" which disclosures are incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 4 as follows:

In a preferred embodiment, a fully associative table structure as is described in incorporated patent ~~application~~ Application Serial Number 09/510,282, filed February 21, 2000 [~~Attorney Docket No. 10971366~~], entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FINDING AND VALIDATING THE MOST RECENT ADVANCE LOAD FOR A GIVEN CHECK LOAD," may be cycled through a series of states by software executing in the compiler system. States A 102, B 102, C 104, and D105 preferably represent states which software may cycle a hardware structure (such as the fully associative table) through. States A 102 through D 105 are preferably the only legal states in state diagram 100.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 12 as follows:

Herein, the term "prospective entry" generally refers to an entry at a port ready to be written to a location in a fully associative table, and the term "table entry" generally refers to an entry already present in a fully associative table. Prospective entries may be directed into a table because of a condition where a prospective entry matches a table entry. Alternatively, prospective entries may be directed into locations in a fully associative table as directed by a pointer which indicates a location of an invalid entry. These alternative mechanisms for writing entries into fully associative tables are further described in incorporated patent ~~application~~ Application Serial Number 09/510,288, filed February 21, 2000 [~~Attorney Docket~~

~~No. 10971362~~, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EFFICIENTLY UPDATING A FULLY ASSOCIATIVE ARRAY." Herein, the term "illegal value" generally refers to a value which a prospective entry would preferably not acquire in a normal course of program execution.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 23 as follows:

In a preferred embodiment, where table 206 is in an illegal state, this illegal state causes a mechanism for writing entries into table 206 to forego writing prospective entries to table locations containing matching values in favor of writing entries according to a pointer update mechanism described in incorporated patent ~~application~~ Application Serial Number 09/510,288, filed February 21, 2000 [~~Attorney Docket No. 10971362~~], entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EFFICIENTLY UPDATING A FULLY ASSOCIATIVE ARRAY," hereinafter referred to as the "P141 application."